



MAYOR JOHN E. McMILLAN

SEEKS RE-ELECTION FROM THE VOTERS OF GREATER KNOXVILLE

HIS RECORD SPEAKS FOR ITSELF

TO THE VOTERS OF GREATER KNOXVILLE:---

I hereby announce myself as a candidate for re-election to the office of Mayor at the election to be held September 20th next. At the outset I shall state that I am for a non-partisan business administration of the affairs of our city.

The management of a municipality is not unlike any other business corporation. The stockholders are the people, and the purpose of the people in the selection of their officers is to secure the honest, intelligent and faithful expenditure of the revenue contributed by the taxpayers and not to administer their affairs in the interest of any political party of any particular faction of citizens.

The management of a municipality should be one of business and not of politics.

Elected four years ago Knoxville's first non-partisan Mayor by a majority of nearly a thousand, I have during my administration stood square and true to the platform upon which I was elected, and having so stood I am conscious of the fact that I did not bargain my honor for a municipal job.

I have made up my mind to ask the people to give me their endorsement for a second term. In making this announcement I desire to state that I have not consulted with any self-appointed leaders, nor have I been persuaded or begged by any set of men to make the race. No man, corporation nor set of men has controlled me in any of my official acts and neither have they pulled me into this campaign.

I shall run unbridled, and no driver shall jerk the rein and indicate the course I shall pursue, and, if I am re-elected, I mean to remain through my administration as I ran.

If I am re-elected I shall continue to serve, to the best of my ability, the whole people, the poor as well as the rich, the colored as well as the white, the women as well as the men.

During my administration I have endeavored to keep an open ear at all times to the people's views and suggestions, both privately from day to day, and by a courteous reception at the sessions of the Board, as to the public needs and interests, for I have never yet deceived myself with the thought that the people elected me Mayor believing that I carried under my hat all the brains of the town.

It has been difficult to meet the views of all that great body of citizenship constituting the public, but I have devoted my best energies to serve the public to the best of my judgment and as I saw the right.

Knoxville has made rapid strides in the past few years as every one must admit. Each and every one of us is proud of our city. When we are away from home we boast of Knoxville as a progressive city, and when the stranger comes within our midst, we point with pride to our public improvements, which are necessary to the development and evolution of the modern city. The present administration has made many public improvements and by reason of these improvements Knoxville has shown to the world that she is not lagging, nor wanting in proper spirit of enterprise, and is justly entitled to recognition as one of the progressive cities of our country.

I am firmly of the opinion that public improvements, judiciously made, by a progressive city administration, are the principal element that adds to the prosperity and growth of any up to date city. Public improvements have attracted the stranger to our city to invest, property values have enhanced, homes have eagerly been sought for, and business is good, regardless of the cockers who belittle the town, and who on every occasion are decrying Knoxville as a dead and bankrupt city. There are very few vacant houses or vacant offices in Knoxville.

I am for a continuance of those progressive policies, which go to make and build a live progressive city, and if re-elected I shall advocate and work for a continuance of same. I have opposed some bond issues during my term. I am opposed to a policy of indiscriminate bond issues and will favor only those which are invested in permanent improvements, which will pay for themselves over and over again; for I believe that a public debt honestly incurred and utilized is a public blessing.

At this time I deem it proper to call the attention of our people to some of the improvements made by the present administration, of which I am a part.

Street Lighting—a new contract was made reducing the cost of street lights from \$72.50 per year to \$54.00 for one kind and \$38.50 for another, thereby enabling the city to obtain nearly twice as many street lights at the former

annual expense. In making this contract we also obtained the ornamental lights on our business streets, free of cost, which had heretofore cost the taxpayers several thousand dollars per year.

New Water Pump—We have installed one of the finest pumps that could be obtained. If the purchase had been delayed until the present, it would now cost the taxpayers over \$100,000.00 more to obtain the same pump, by reason of the enhanced cost. We shall have no more break-downs and our people will suffer no more inconveniences from shortage of water as has happened in the past.

Filter Plant—If elected I shall advocate and work for a complete new filtering plant. When this is done Knoxville will have one of the best water plants in the country, and the health of our people will be insured from any possible epidemics. No question is more important to a municipality than the conservation of the public health.

New Water Mains—Miles and miles of new water mains and extensions have been made in an honest effort to furnish all of Greater Knoxville with water service. As Mayor I have voted for every application from our people for an extension of water mains.

Additional Hospital Facilities—We purchased the Lincoln-Memorial Hospital at less than its original cost; and have made improvements in both hospitals and greatly increased the hospital facilities. I refer our citizens to any one who has been a patient in our hospitals with respect to the excellent service rendered.

Colored Hospital—There is a crying need for hospital facilities for our colored people, as the rooms now provided for them are poorly located and are inadequate for proper treatment of their sick. Our colored citizens have paid their part in taxes on the hospital property, and are paying annually to support the hospital. If I am re-elected, I shall actively support a proposition to build an appropriate addition for their use and benefit.

Fire Department—We have completely motorized the fire department, discontinuing the use of about forty horses. The feed and other expense of these horses cost over \$12,000.00 annually, which has been saved. By reason of this change and improvement to our fire department our people are now getting the benefit of reduced fire insurance rate, as well as a quick and more efficient service. Modern fire halls have been built and hundreds of fire hydrants installed, giving adequate fire protection to every section of our city.

Streets—This administration has built more new streets and repaired more old ones than any other administration in the history of Knoxville. Many of our principal business streets, which were old and worn, were resurfaced with asphalt at a small cost and the wonderful improvement resulting was an agreeable surprise to our people. Knoxville has now over 100 miles of permanent street paving and is the best paved city of its size in the United States. Every Knoxvillean points with pride to our paved streets. Facilities have been provided by this administration for the more efficient cleaning of our streets and the removal of garbage. The old mule carts for collection of garbage have been largely abandoned for the up-to-date trucks. I am in favor of additional trucks in order that garbage and refuse may be removed oftener than at present.

Schools—I consider the schools the most important department of our city government. When I was alderman and since I have been Mayor, I have been a consistent and earnest supporter of our schools. With other members of the City Council and the Superintendent of City schools, the late Prof. Seymour A. Mynders, that statesman and efficient educator, I worked hard for the erection of the beautiful High School building on Fifth Avenue. There was opposition, at that time, to the construction of such a large building, but time has proved that it was even built too small. During the past winter and spring, pupils were forced to go as far as six miles to Oakwood for accommodation in the High School course. Yet every good citizen who loves Knoxville points with pride to the Knoxville High School. As Mayor I voted for and advocated an adequate addition to this school, and now the work is about to commence. When completed Knoxville will have one of the largest and best High School buildings in the South. We have built the Moses School, one of the best and most up to date school buildings in the country. We have practically rebuilt the Van Gilder and the Maynard Schools. And have built an extensive addition to the Oakwood School and made extensive improvements to the Belle Morris school. We have under contract the building of four new, beautiful modern school houses, one near Vestal, one in Morningside, one in Lincoln Park and one for the colored in Lonsdale. This administration has appropriated more funds for the operation of our public school system than any former administration in the history of Knoxville. The public school system of our City must be maintained at the high state of efficiency that has prevailed in the past, and the growth of our school system must be encouraged. The salaries of school teachers are grossly inadequate, under existing conditions, and must be increased. Are they not engaged in the most important of all vocations? I feel a deep interest in our schools for to the City Schools of Knoxville I am indebted for all the education I was ever able to obtain.

Parks and Playgrounds—We have purchased property in different sections of the city to be used for parks and playgrounds. The properties are now worth two or three times more than the amount paid for same. These places of recreation are popular with our people, and some of them even with the present equipment, are daily visited by large crowds. I advocate an appropriation that will properly equip these playgrounds and provide care for them. No playgrounds have as yet been provided for our colored children. Difference of opinion as to location has so far prevented a conclusion being reached. I am in favor of providing a suitable park and playground for our colored children.

Police Department—The improvements in the efficiency of our Police and Detective departments are too well known for me to comment upon. I have voted for men for these departments with the one object of efficiency and service; and the records show that I have consistently voted for proper expenditures for the enforcement of the laws both City and State, by city employees. The present city administration inaugurated in Knoxville the traffic police system which was much needed for the safety and protection of the lives of our citizens and the convenience of the traveling public, and has given to Knoxville the appearance of an up to date city. The rigid enforcement of the ordinance governing the inspection of weights and measures has proved very helpful to the city during the period of the war and high prices.

Food Inspection—This administration created the office of Food Inspector by ordinance and by its enforcement and municipal regulation have provided for the strict inspection of restaurants, lunch-stands, fountains, etc., as to the cleanliness, wholesomeness and purity of our food-stuffs.

Wages—My record on this subject is well known and will show that I have always voted and worked for an increase of pay to all city employees, for I believe that the laborer is worthy of his hire, whether he is working at the forge or in the counting house; pacing his beat as a policeman for the protection and safety of the citizens, or climbing a fireman's ladder to save the lives and property of the citizens. In these days when the cost of living has so increased I believe that the salaries of the underpaid employees of a municipality, and indeed, all those who make wealth by their labor, should be paid commensurately with the results of their labor.

Employment Bureau—This administration created a free public employment bureau which has been helpful, both to employers and employees.

Coal and Wood Yard—When our railroads were kept busy by the Government in connection with the war and "heatless days" were in vogue, the present administration sought to relieve the sufferings of the poor by establishing the yard where wood and coal might be bought as cheaply as possible.

Gay Street Viaduct—My position on this is too well known for much comment. To give the people of Knoxville this improvement has been my greatest ambition as Mayor. By this time they realize that the majority of the present administration has been trying to give the people what they most desire, and what the people said they wanted at the ballot box—namely, a viaduct from Vine Avenue to Depot Street. The construction of this viaduct has started, but it will not be completed when my term of office expires. Permit me to call the attention of our people to this fact, that the plans for this Gay Street Viaduct are subject to change by whatever administration is in power. Do you realize that the incoming administration, if they so choose, can change the plans and build the viaduct from Depot to Jackson Avenue? The viaduct across the tracks must be first built, in order to accommodate the people of North Knoxville. One of the gentlemen who has announced himself informally as a candidate for Mayor opposed and voted against the building of this viaduct to Vine Avenue, and I am informed that the opponents of that viaduct have actively sought a candidate for Mayor. If I am re-elected I promise the people of Knoxville that I shall advocate and work to build this viaduct to Vine Avenue just as hard as I have in the past. The people expressed themselves on this matter, at the ballot box and, if I am re-elected, their will shall be carried out. I warn the people who are in favor of this long viaduct, which in my opinion will be the greatest improvement ever made in the history of Knoxville, to be on their guard. If I am re-elected I pledge myself to vote and work to have the Clinch Avenue viaduct brought to a level grade. Other viaducts are badly needed at dangerous crossings to make the business district more accessible to the traveling public and relieve the congestion of traffic. I am in favor of Civil Service to all employees of the City, for efficiency comes through experience and I am not in favor of turning out the experienced to make room for the inexperienced, BUT WHERE I AM OF THE OPINION THAT A CHANGE SHOULD BE MADE FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE SERVICE I SHALL MEET MY DUTY UNFLINCHINGLY AND WITHOUT REGARD TO MY PERSONAL FEELINGS. During my administration I voted to make a change in the head of one of the departments, and I did so because from the information at hand, I thought it was for the betterment of the service, although the officer removed was my personal friend and supporter. I thought then I was doing right by the people of Knoxville. The people of Knoxville are familiar with the case, and the ouster proceeding that followed by reason of my vote to remove the officer to another place in the department and within the Civil Service. In casting my vote to make this change I acted in my best judgment for the people of Knoxville who elected me. By reason of so doing I have been forced, at a heavy personal financial cost, to defend myself and the office the people gave me, through all the courts of the state.

As Mayor I have performed every duty imposed upon me by our National Government during the war. The arduous task of registration for the Army in this city, was performed, with the help of our patriotic men and women, without a cent of cost to our National Government; while other cities were piling up large sums upon the Government for the same service. When our boys came home, as your Mayor, I devoted myself actively to aid as your representative, in giving them just the reception and welcome they so justly deserved and one which would redound to the credit of our patriotic city and citizens, as well as to their honor. Those who made the Supreme Sacrifice we have also tried to honor though of necessity in a small way compared to their glorious deeds.

I was a member of the committee of 25 known as the Greater Knoxville Committee. I was the only member of that committee who voted against and opposed the present boundary lines which gave Knoxville 26½ square miles as against 4½ square miles. I am not in favor of forcing people into the corporate limits against their will, and especially am I against bringing into the corporation farms and acres of old fields which the present generation will never see converted into city lots. I am for reasonable and fair boundary lines where there is a prospect of the property taken in, becoming city lots and getting some benefit from the taxes the owners have to pay. The city is not financially able to give and it will be years upon years before it can do anything at all commensurate in the way of benefits to a great deal of the new property taken into the city in return for the taxes those who own it are forced to pay from year to year, but if re-elected, I will vote for every improvement possible in the new territory. This extension of territory has been burdensome to the city financially, especially with the high cost of labor and materials; but Knoxville's credit is still good and her pay-rolls and her obligations have been promptly met, even when other greater cities in the land during the strain of the war period have not been able to do likewise. During the war when labor and materials of every kind had advanced so much we were able to meet the pay rolls and obligations without any increase in revenue.

I ask you, in all candor and fairness, do you approve of my acts as Mayor and desire a continuance of the progressive policies I have stood for? Is it asking too much, to ask for your endorsement and vote for a second term? Can my opponents give you any better service or can they even promise more?

If re-elected I shall continue to advocate a progressive policy. Every citizen in Knoxville knows that Knoxville is growing, and, if I am honored by re-election, I shall continue to make it known, at home and abroad, that Knoxville is a growing, healthy, progressive city—a good city in which to live, a good city in which to have a home, a good city in which to educate children, a good city in which to have a business, and a good city in which to earn an honest living.

Should I be re-elected I shall feel a deep sense of indebtedness and gratitude to the people of Knoxville for their continued confidence in me, and with the experience of the past, and profiting by any mistakes which have been made, I shall use every effort to serve you acceptably and well.

Respectfully yours,
JOHN E. McMILLAN.